

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00175 080953Z  
ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 H-02 PPTE-00 L-03 SCA-01 /007 W  
-----080958Z 112880 /12

P 080701Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5431

UNCLAS TUNIS 0175

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, TS (ZAUCH, KARIM)  
SUBJECT: W/W KARIM ZAUCH

REF: STATE 002995

1. SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY INTEREST.
2. CONSULAR OFFICER CONTACTING CHERIF ZAUCH AND WILL ASCERTAIN WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS OF KARIM.
3. TUNISIAN LAW GENERALLY FAVORS THE MOTHER IN CUSTODY DISPUTES, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE WELFARE OF THE CHILD. IN A CASE WHERE A PARENT WHO IS ACCORDED CUSTODY CHANGES RESIDENCE FROM TUNISIA, CUSTODY RIGHTS ARE LOST AND A FOREIGN WOMAN MAY NOT HAVE THE CUSTODY OF HER CHILD WHILE LIVING OUTSIDE OF TUNISIA. TUNISIAN COURTS DO NOT RECOGNIZE U.S. COURTS DECISIONS BECAUSE THERE IS NO JUDICIAL TREATY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. UNDER TUNISIAN LAW, A PUTATIVE FATHER OF AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD BECOMES A LEGAL FATHER UPON HIS RECOGNITION OF HIS CHILD. IN CASES OF TUNISIAN MOTHER AND FATHER OR FOREIGN MOTHER AND TUNISIAN FATHER RESIDING IN TUNISIA, TUNISIAN LAW USUALLY GRANTS CUSTODY TO THE MOTHER UNTIL A CHILD REACHES THE AGE OF 7 FOR A BOY AND 9 FOR A GIRL. TUNISIAN LAW DOES NOT RECOGNIZE DUAL NATIONALITY.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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